

[24 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Withdrawal of the Seeds Bill, 2004

268. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to withdraw the Seeds Bills, 2004 as it does not allow use of traditional seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is proposal to withdraw the Seeds Bill, 2004. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, to which the bill had been referred, has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Speaker. The Seeds Bill, 2004 fully protects the traditional rights of farmers including the right to use farm saved seeds.

Decline in purchasing power of farmers

269. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the 59th report of the National Sample Survey, the crores of farmers of the country have to live with only Rs. 8/- a day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a heavy decline in the purchasing power of the farmers is also major cause of suicide;

(c) the reaction of Government on the news of suicides now in Bulandshahr area of Uttar Pradesh after Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the details of farmers committing suicide in the above three States and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the scheme formulated by Government in view of the above incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The major reasons for farmers committing suicide as reported by the State Governments are crop failure, indebtedness, drought and social and economic insecurity.